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NATIONAL CONGRESS
PARENTS AND TEACHERS

National Congress Bulletin

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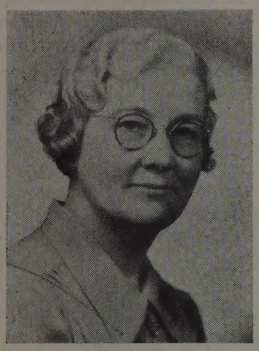
THE *ALERT* HAS BEEN SOUNDED!

STAND ready to protect the children of America in every way within your power. The task may vary according to your location. But whatever that task may be, each parent-teacher unit is prepared to carry its full load.

Virginia Klebs

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Dear Local President:



A HAPPY NEW YEAR to you and to the members of the parent-teacher association! In a world gone mad with hate and strife and greed, it may at first seem smug to count our personal blessings. But much remains to bring us happiness, and this we must enjoy if balance and sanity are to be maintained.

And this we can enjoy, for beauty remains with us always. White, shining snow on the needled branches of the evergreen. The weird caricatures of familiar objects seen in the looming fog. The sunlight slanting through stained glass.

There are cherished hours of fellowship with friends. There is the pleasure that comes of positive, buoyant health. But the greatest returns in happiness come from service. Members of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers have the coveted privilege of serving the children of the nation. No other organization has a greater opportunity or a greater obligation. The program is so broad that there is work for every talent.

So, even though it is midnight for the greater part of the world and the outcome of the conflict is hidden from our sight, men and women with imagination, courage, and faith will find happiness in purposeful living during the year ahead.

Vice-President—Region VII
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will meet in Chicago in January. Included for discussion on the agenda are plans for the national convention, to be held in San Antonio, Texas, May 3-7, 1942, and the preparation of Congress publications for the coming year.

BOOK CAMPAIGN

The National Defense Book Campaign will open January 12, 1942. Watch your local papers for further information.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

AT FIRST GLANCE it may seem a bit far-fetched to refer to membership in the parent-teacher association as the key of admission to world citizenship. Yet again and again it has proved to be nothing less. Persons who, up to the time of joining the P.T.A., have never interested themselves in public affairs have found vista after vista of community service opening before them. It is but a step, after all, from an enlightened interest in the welfare of children and youth to an active desire to participate in efforts to secure human welfare in general; from service directed toward one's own group to service extended throughout the community and, eventually, the world. This principle of extension, particularly extension of the good parent's attitude to the children of others, accounts for much of the vitality of our great organization.

Membership today, accordingly, means more than ever before. The impulse to band together in groups for common effort is at all times strong, but in times of emergency it becomes paramount, one group after another swinging into line in the concerted march toward the objective. And today's objective—the preservation of the democratic way of life—is one that must stir into purposeful action anyone to whom the interests of childhood and youth are important. It is our children who will profit by the victory or suffer from the defeat of this priceless possession, democracy.

Membership in the parent-teacher association is a pledge of faith in democracy and hope for youth; there is work for all, there is inspiration for all, and there is the dynamic power that inheres in great numerical strength. The National Congress of Parents and Teachers today numbers two and a half millions of men and women. Little wonder that the voice of this vast organization is making itself heard in a significant manner all over the world! Little wonder that more and more men and women are seizing the opportunity it offers!

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AT WORK

International Relations

FOR the committee on International Relations these are stimulating times; so much depends on friendship with other nations, particularly those of South and Central America, that too much energy can scarcely be directed toward this end. Mrs. C. C. McDonald, national chairman, says: "Our program will continue to be one of promoting a better understanding of the Latin American countries. The Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs is suggesting three types of program, two of which will interest us. One relates to community action following round table conferences, and the other is a study or lecture course on the civilization of the other Americas."

Authentic information concerning the life of our neighbors to the south is one of our prime needs. Our concept of Latin American civilization is often inaccurate, based upon so-called "studies" made with more haste than accuracy. Intelligent Latin Americans naturally resent this, and such studies are anything but helpful. Anything that can be done by the parent-teacher association to obtain and disseminate *correct* information will represent progress.

Congress Publications

THE Publications committee of the National Congress, headed by Mrs. Albert L. Gardner, has embarked upon a plan of work that should lead to a better understanding of the objects, ideals, and policies of the Congress. The scope of the program is impressive, and the content of the publications is sound, well considered, and concretely helpful. Mrs. Gardner urges state and local chairmen to learn the method of obtaining and distributing the publications; to distribute promptly and equitably; to keep a complete indexed file of all Congress publications and see that they are adequately promoted and displayed; to make themselves familiar with the content of each publication in order to speak with authority concerning its proper use; and to strive in every possible way to obtain wide circulation, thoughtful reading, and intelligent use of each one. The publications are not issued for profit but solely for the benefit of parent-teacher endeavor. Every effort has been made to simplify and expedite distribution from the National Office. Let us make this a year of success with Congress publications.

Citizenship

THE Citizenship committee of the National Congress, headed by Donald W. MacKay, finds its work increased in both extent and significance nowadays. The committee has recommended the "Induction into Citizenship" movement as an excellent one for developing a sense of responsibility toward the community and the nation. Emphasis is also placed upon the potentialities of the home as a training school for citizenship. "Home relationships and routine should be based on cooperation, respect for personality, self-reliance, self-control, honesty, and tolerance . . . The home should prove an extension of the school environment, where citizenship is taught, by acting as a laboratory for the principles and practices learned in school. . . . Adults in the family should participate actively in the affairs of the government by voting and by assuming civic responsibility when possible."

Perhaps no other element in the training of children for competent citizenship is so important as the civic attitude of the adults in the family. Failure to vote, unthinking contempt of everything connected with political activity, or an indifferent and apathetic attitude toward public affairs is not conducive to the awakening of civic consciousness in the child. The power of adult example is nowhere greater than in the field of citizenship. Let us give our children a worthy pattern to follow, and we shall not be disappointed in the result of our effort.

FIGHT INFANTILE PARALYSIS

The 1942 campaign against infantile paralysis, which opens officially January 12, commemorates President Roosevelt's sixtieth, or diamond jubilee, birthday.

During the past three years more than 25,000 cases of this dread disease have been reported, the highest toll for any similar period since 1916. The cost of prolonged care for the 25,000 patients and for the hundreds of thousands previously crippled is staggering and can be met only by the utmost effort of all, including parents and teachers.

CHILD LABOR DAY

January 24, 25, or 26

On one of these three days in the month of January, parent-teacher associations and others interested in child welfare will have an opportunity to prove their devotion. Although child labor in mills, mines, and factories has been outlawed, thousands of child workers not covered by Federal legislation toil on without rest and without ceasing. Attention must be focused on industrialized agriculture. Approximately half a million children still pick berries from strawberry time in early spring to cranberry time on the verge of winter. They work in tobacco and hop fields. They bend their backs over onion beds in the North, pick cotton in the South, and follow the fruit crops along the Pacific Coast. In practically every state agricultural work is exempt from child labor regulations. What becomes of school under such a regime? What of the unspeakably insanitary conditions and the often brutal treatment under which these children exist? Federal legislation is desperately needed. Observance of Child Labor Day will help.

2,480,188 MEMBERS

THE work of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers is carried on in 28,050 parent-teacher associations in which there is a membership of 2,480,188. It is the world's largest volunteer service organization of *men* and *women* devoted to the welfare and education of children and youth. *The national portion* of the all-inclusive membership dues is *5c per capita.* All persons interested in the objects of the organization may become members by joining a local P.T.A. belonging to the state and national congresses. Local members pay all-inclusive dues (local, state, and national) to the local association. The national portion is remitted to the National Congress by the state congress.

CONGRESS CONTACTS

THE STRENGTH of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers is greatly increased and its sphere of activity significantly broadened by its continuous contact with other organizations whose influence and purposes lie parallel with its own. Since September the Congress has been represented at meetings of the following organizations and agencies:

- Advisory Board, U. S. Department of National Physical Training, Washington, D.C., Howard V. Funk, vice-president from Region I.
- Advisory Committee on Arrangements, 8th Pan-American Child Congress, Washington, D.C., Mrs. William Kletzer, president.
- Advisory Committee, National Defense Book Campaign, New York, New York, Mrs. Harry M. Mulberry, national chairman, committee on Reading and Library Service.
- Advisory Committee, W.P.A. Community Projects, Washington, D.C., Mrs. William Kletzer, president.
- American Academy of Pediatrics, Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. Lillian R. Smith, national chairman, committee on Health and Summer Round-Up of the Children.
- 1942 American Education Week Committee, Washington, D.C., Mrs. William Kletzer, president.
- American Public Health Association, Atlantic City, New Jersey, Dr. Lillian R. Smith, national chairman, committee on Health and Summer Round-Up of the children.
- Civilian Defense Conference, Washington, D.C., Mrs. William A. Hastings, first vice-president.
- Forum on "The American Woman and Her Responsibilities," Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri, Mrs. Warren L. Mabrey, vice-president from Region V.
- National Association for Nursery Education, Detroit, Michigan, Mrs. William Kletzer, president.
- National Recreation Association, Baltimore, Maryland, Mrs. S. C. Cox, vice-president from Region II.
- National Rural Home Council, Nashville, Tennessee, Mrs. William A. Hastings, first vice-president.
- National Safety Council, Chicago, Illinois, Mrs. Fred M. Raymond, national chairman, committee on Programs and Founders Day.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Volume 9 JANUARY, 1942 Number 5

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TUNE IN AND LISTEN TO . . .

On the Home Front

THE NEW NATIONAL CONGRESS NATION-WIDE

Radio Program

FIRST FOUR BROADCASTS
1942 RADIO PROGRAM

Theme: On the Home Front
Time: Saturdays, 3:15-3:30 E.S.T.
Over: NBC Red Network

January 17—Good Feeding Is Good Defense

Mrs. William Kletzer, President, National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Ruth Cowan Clouse, Chairman, Department of Home Economics, Illinois Institute of Technology

January 24—The Family Keeps Fit

Lillian R. Smith, M.D., Chairman, Committee on Health and Summer Round-Up of the Children, National Congress of Parents and Teachers

W. W. Bauer, M.D., Director, Bureau of Health Education, American Medical Association

January 31—One Hundred Per Cent for Your Food Dollar

Ada Hart Arlitt, Chairman, Committee on Parent Education, National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Mary A. Brady, Extension Nutritionist, Home Economics Extension Department, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin

February 7—What Shall We Do About Clothes?

Mrs. Logan G. Hughes, Vice-President, Region IV, National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Lita Bane, Head, Department of Home Economics, University of Illinois

Coordinator:

Parker Wheatley, Radio Director, Northwestern University

A MORE than casual significance attaches to the selection of a topic for the nation-wide parent-teacher radio series of 1942. "On the Home Front" is a phrase that has carried keen reality for many months; with the sudden outbreak of actual war it takes on even sharper outlines. We must remember that to win the war on the battle front and lose it on the home front would be a sorry victory. We must win it on both fronts, bearing always in mind that the work we are constantly doing to upbuild and uphold the health and well-being, physical, mental, and spiritual, of every child and every young person in the land is work as truly aimed at defending America and repulsing her enemies as are the toil and hazard of the battlefield.

To do this work effectively under the handicaps of war and its attendant stresses and strains, we must call forth the active cooperation of every member. For this purpose the radio offers us an unparallelled medium. Everybody listens to the radio. Recognition of this fact has led the radio project committee to make detailed plans to insure broadcasting of our discussions over as many stations as possible. State presidents have been asked to communicate with the Red Network stations in their several states, telling them of the interest of our members in the program and asking them to give it an outlet. In case this is impossible because of conflicts or previous commitments, the program may be transcribed and presented later. This privilege, of course, is available only to members of the radio chain putting the broadcasts on the air.

The importance of all-out cooperation for the series cannot be overemphasized. Such cooperation will serve not only the National Congress but the nation. Radio chairmen are urged (1) to organize study groups and listening groups immediately, (2) to promote careful evaluation of the broadcasts, and (3) to request all listeners to make response to the station over which they hear the programs. These measures are essential not only to the success of this year's project but to the extension and improvement of our radio service in the years to come.

Honor Roll

EACH MONTH in this column we are publishing a list of the associations that have earned Awards of Merit for promoting the circulation of our official Magazine, the *National Parent-Teacher.*

The first ten councils to win Blue or Gold Scrolls and the first fifty P.T.A.'s to win Blue or Gold Certificates are given *Honor Roll* recognition.

You will find full particulars concerning requirements in the October issue of the *Bulletin* or in the *Magazine Handbook.*

The numerals opposite the names indicate the order in which the Awards were earned.

Is yours a *Magazine Honor Roll* association?

Blue and Gold Certificates

17. Smithfield Ave. PTA, Pawtucket, R.I.
Pres., Mrs. Irving O. Johnson
18. Elizabethtown PTA, Elizabethtown, N.C.
Pres., Mrs. John D. Beatty
19. Raymond PTA, Raymond, Miss.
Pres., Mrs. G. M. McLendon
20. Garfield PTA, Erie, Pa.
Pres., Mrs. Nicholas Rohan
21. Penn PTA, Erie, Pa.
Pres., Mrs. R. W. Donaldson
22. St. Andrews PTA, Erie, Pa.
Pres., Mrs. Raymond Fetzner
23. Lincoln PTA, Erie, Pa.
Pres., Mrs. George Hammill
24. Irving PTA, Erie, Pa.
Pres., Mrs. E. J. Thomas
25. Perry PTA, Erie, Pa.
Pres., Mrs. N. D. Christman

Blue Certificate

27. Humbert PTA, Cedar Falls, Iowa
Pres., Mrs. Harold Seaver
28. LaSalle PTA, Mishawaka, Ind.
Pres., Mrs. Guy McCuddy
29. Osborn School PTA, Phoenix, Ariz.
Pres., Mrs. Joe Atterbery
30. McClernand School PTA, Springfield, Ill.
Pres., Mrs. A. M. Hatch
31. Lincoln Jr. High PTA, Bremerton, Wash.
Pres., Mrs. Wm. Tappe
32. Whitman Preschool, Tacoma, Wash.
Pres., Mrs. E. T. Bowman
33. N. Birmingham School PTA, Birmingham, Ala.
Pres., Mrs. J. H. Berry, Jr.
34. Dysart PTA, Peoria, Ariz.
Pres., Mrs. P. M. VanSant
35. Columbian PTA, Pueblo, Colo.
Pres., Mrs. G. A. Bailey
36. Melbourne PTA, Melbourne, Fla.
Pres., Mrs. Larson McNulty
37. Lenox School PTA, Daytona Beach. Fla.
Pres., Mrs. Wm. H. Lyle
38. Bixler PTA, Eldorado, Ill.
Pres., Mrs. Harold Nave
39. Woodside PTA, Des Moines, Iowa
Pres., Mrs. J. W. Maitland
40. St. Joseph's PTA, Beatrice, Nebr.
Pres., Mrs. Albert Plebuch
41. Ky. Elementary PTA, Cleveland, Ohio
Pres., Mrs. John Martin
42. Augusta Circle PTA, Greenville, S.C.
Pres., Mrs. R. A. Wiggers
43. Latona Preschool, Seattle, Wash.
Pres., Mrs. Howard H. Hanson
44. James Madison PTA, Seattle, Wash.
Pres., Mrs. Lester M. Hunt
45. Cleveland High School PTA, Seattle, Wash.
Pres., Mrs. Forrest Wagner
46. Jefferson PTA, Erie, Pa.
Pres., Mrs. Robert Faber
47. Columbus PTA, Erie, Pa.
Pres., Mrs. Dan Presogna

A SPECIAL MESSAGE *for* YOUR JANUARY MEETING

Will you please read it to your members?

DEAR PARENT-TEACHER MEMBERS:

Everything worth doing in this world is done by faith. It is faith that builds the fragile but steel-strong framework of love and understanding over the chasm of loneliness and isolation that often stretches between one human heart and another. By faith our National Congress grew out of the hearts of mothers of children into the heart of the world. By faith its invincible ideals are reaffirmed and interpreted each month in the pages of its official magazine, the *National Parent-Teacher.* And by faith of devoted parent-teacher workers the message of those pages will be spread throughout the land, that every child may share its benefits.

In faith I come to you for help in widening our circle of subscribers. Won't you resolve now to make the fullest possible use of the Magazine in 1942? For example, if your neighbor is unfamiliar with the treasures that lie within it, won't you make those treasures known to him? If heretofore you have not subscribed to the *National Parent-Teacher,* won't you take steps today to send in at least one subscription for your P.T.A.?

In faith, then, I am counting upon your wholehearted support. May our beloved work, supplemented by the knowledge we derive from our own national magazine, become a still greater influence for good in the lives of our children during 1942.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth B. Hall

President
National Parent-Teacher Magazine

AMONG HIS PEERS

One of the many interesting articles in the January issue of the

NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER

"A hat like Joe's" . . . " . . . that new nail polish all the girls are using" . . . " . . . eleven-thirty's the earliest any of the others have to get home" . . . "But, Mother, *nobody* thinks that's necessary any more, my goodness!"

Sound familiar? Alas, only the harassed parents of those stern and rockbound conformists, the children in school and at play, know how familiar it does sound! But wise parents know, too, that this insistence on conformity, which seems at first glance to indicate a sheeplike absence of individual initiative, actually indicates something very different—the imperative need of the child to be accepted by his group. The group tends to frown upon difference; therefore the child must conform or risk rejection. The thoughtful parent will help him to conform as much as is consistent with health and wholesome living, realizing that there will be time for individuality later, after firm foundations have been laid for comradeship and the satisfactory human relationships that make life worth living.

The subscription price of the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER is $1 a year. Make check or money order payable to NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER. Mail to 600 S. Michigan Blvd., Chicago, Ill.